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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/510,638

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Akihiro Suzuki

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513 7590 09/13/2007  
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EXAMINER

FAULK, DEVONA E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/13/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/510,638	SUZUKI, AKIHIRO	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Devona E. Faulk	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/8@004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Remarks***

1. Claims 2-6 were objected to because they were dependent upon a rejected claim and were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. The applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form and it is in allowable form.
2. Applicant's arguments, filed 6/21/2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 under 102(b), regarding the newly recited claim language, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of obvious to try KSR rationale.

### ***Drawings***

3. Figures 6A and 6B should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) (Figures 6A,6B; page 1, line 12-page 4, line 15) in view of .

Regarding claim 1, AAPA discloses a broadcasting system having a plurality of input devices for receiving sound (inputs 11-14, Figure 6A), a plurality of output devices for broadcasting the sound (output devices 21-24, Figure 6A), and a controller interconnected with said input and output devices through a network (30, Figure 6A; a networks is define as an interconnected configuration or system of components; Figure 6A reads on the claim language), said broadcasting system characterized in that:

Said controller, in response to a broadcasting request from an arbitrary one of said input devices, delivers routing data (page 1, lines 24-page 2, line 5) indicative of a combination of said input device which has made the broadcasting request, and said output device or devices which should broadcast the sound from said input device to all of said one input devices (page 1, lines 12-page 2, line 5, Figure 6B).

AAPA discloses delivering routing data, indicative of a combination of said one input device to the output devices (page 2 ,lines 2-22; Figure 6B).

AAPA fails to disclose delivering routing data indicative of a combination to all of said input devices. Routing data indicative of a combination of devices is known in the art as taught by the applicant's admitted prior art. It would have been obvious to try to route data to the input devices with a reasonable expectation of success in order to better control which of the input devices inputs sound and delivers sound to the output devices.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 2-6 are allowed.

Regarding claim 2, the prior art (AAPA) (Figures 6A,6B; page 1, line 12-page 4, line 15) discloses a broadcasting system having a plurality of input devices for receiving sound (inputs 11-14, Figure 6A), a plurality of output devices for broadcasting the sound (output devices 21-24, Figure 6A), and a controller interconnected with said input and output devices through a network (30, Figure 6A; a networks is define as an interconnected configuration or system of components; Figure 6A reads on the claim language), said broadcasting system characterized in that:

Said controller, in response to a broadcasting request from an arbitrary one of said input devices, delivers routing data (page 1, lines 24-page 2, line 5) indicative of a combination of said input device which has made the broadcasting request, and said output device or devices which should broadcast the sound from said input device to all of said one input devices (page 1, lines 12-page 2, line 5, Figure 6B). Prior art Ueda (US 5,436,888) discloses communication path control method and communication

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device. Prior art Newman (US 5,245,603) discloses high-speed determining unit for prioritizing and arbitration among competing input signals.

Generally the prior art teaches of routing data.

The prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious wherein said controller forces said input devices to register the plurality of broadcasting patterns when said input devices are initially set.

Claims 3-6 are allowed due to dependency on claim 2.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DEF

  
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